

Andrew Jackson to George Duffield, June 25, 1802, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO GEORGE DUFFIELD.

Hunters Hill, June 25, 1802

D'r Sir, Your letter of the 5th. of May came safe to hand. But owing to a pressure of private, as well as publick business, compelled me to omit answering it untill this date. I receive with gratitude your acknowledgements for my services as your chaplain, and hope the Turkey dinner was well dressed and afforded a good repast. I have no doubt but glea and mirth sparkled in each face around the social board—next circuit¹ I hope not only to act as chaplain but stand by and see the nuptials consumated. I am happy to be informed, that *Brice* that pest to courts of Justice, is no more a sheriff, the change I hope will add much to fecility of the execution of the law, and when it is trampled upon his successor will bring them to trial. the change in Green I have no doubt is a happy one.

¹ The judges of the supreme court went on circuit.

The congratulation of a sincere friend at all times, must be pleasing to a mind susceptible of friendship. yours Sir on my late appointment of major Genl. was highly pleasing inasmuch as I knew it flowed from the purest source of friendship, and a real wish for my success. It is of importance, that one of the aids should be of the District of Washington, and it is sufficient for me to know that you would accept the appointment. Sir it is my wish in selecting those two aids which by law I [may do] to find out men of Bravery and talents, men, (if the situation of our country requires it) that would be able and willing to advise in council, and Bravery to carry their admonition into full effect in the field. in you I view

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and [an] able councillor in the cabinet, and a prompt executive officer in the field, this being my opinion and founded in merits when I have the pleasure of seeing you in the next circuit, will hand you your commission. I would enclose it, but I have none prepared for signing. I hope you will if necessity should require it, with freedom transact the duties of an aid under the authority of this letter. untill that time and If business should require it I will address you under that charrector. I wish to appoint the other in the District of Hamilton. my object in having one in each of the eastern Districts, is that the militia laws are not sufficiently attended to by differrent officers of the two Brigades, and it is absolutely necessary, that the militia of Tennessee should be placed on a more respectable footing in point of Discipline. myself in this District and one of the aids in each of the others; by a strict attention to the thing can instill into those officers a spirit of emulation that have not a sufficient share of military Pride that will benefit discipline. The only sure means to prevent invasion, is to convince the world we are able and prepared to repel it.

Receive sir my best wishes for your happiness and believe me to be, with high respect and Esteem

Yr obdt. serv.